

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Published Since 1877

1st, Starkville, celebrates 150th year

By Linda Moore

The year was 1839. Thirteen people feeling the need for a Baptist church in the two-year-old town of Starkville began to hold meetings in various buildings around town and, when weather permitted, under a specially constructed arbor.

The early years . . .

A missionary in the Starkville area, J. C. Kenney, served as the pastor during the church's first year.

The first baptisms were held in August 1839 in Sand Creek. Outdoor baptisms continued until 1858 with the construction of an inside baptistry.

The first sanctuary, a wood-framed building, was built for about \$322 in 1842 on the site of the present old sanctuary on the corner of Lampkin and Lafayette streets.

The Civil War years . . .

Even in the early years of the church before the Civil War, the Baptists ministered to all races. A black slave was one of the 13 charter members. When the church was six years old, membership counted 72 whites and 31 blacks. Separation of the two races came with the establishment of the Second Baptist Church in 1867.

During the Civil War, members held services at the Methodist church while First Baptist's building was being used as a Confederate hospital. The Baptist pastor at the time, T. G. Sellars, served as a volunteer in the Confederate army for two years before returning to the church.

Growing membership following the war called for a larger building. In 1889, the church building was sold for \$137.50 and the brick sanctuary, which is now called the chapel, was built on the same site for \$12,000. Education wings were added in 1914 and 1922.

James D. Ray, for whom the Ray Memorial Building is named, began his pastorate in 1917. His daughter, Frances Scales, still resides in Starkville.

Mississippi A & M College . . .

First Baptist Church was 39 years old when Mississippi Agricultural & Mechanical College opened in Starkville in 1878. The college's first president, Gen. Stephen D. Lee, served the church as a deacon.

The Baptists continued a close association with the college and have been instrumental in the establishment and continued ministry of the Baptist Student Union. Starkville Baptists were the primary funding source of the BSU throughout the early years. The first BSU directors were funded by the budget at First Baptist. It was not until 1964 that the Mississippi Baptist Convention began funding the director's salary.

Because students in the early years were prohibited from bringing cars to college, First Baptist took up a love offering to obtain transportation for the students to church. A bus chassis was purchased and the students built the bus body.

Throughout the 150 years, many Southern Baptist leaders have pass-



ed through the church's doors. The late Owen Cooper of Yazoo City was an active member of FBC while a student at A & M. Serving as the national convention president in 1973-75, Cooper was the last layman to hold that office.

The Applegates' ministry . . .

A definite asset to the church's ministry to youth and university came in 1955 when D. C. Applegate became the pastor. Attendance in educational classes and worship services soared.

During the Applegate ministry, the Ray Memorial Building was constructed in 1956. Capacity attendance

First Church, Starkville, which marks its sesquicentennial this year, will hold a special celebration next Sunday, April 23. A revival meeting was held April 16-19, with Herschel Hobbs as evangelist.

Next Sunday's schedule will include an 8:30 a.m. time to view memorabilia exhibits; 9:30 a.m. historical film "Our Heritage"; 10 a.m. worship service; 11:15 a.m. dinner on the grounds; and 12:30 p.m. gospel sing.

in worship services made two services necessary. In 1961, the new sanctuary was constructed with a seating capacity of 1,250.

In the summer of 1967, Applegate was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. He preached his final sermon as pastor in May 1971.

The Lloyds' ministry . . .

R. Raymond Lloyd began his ministry in May 1972. He was responsible for initiating the Wednesday family night suppers and many innovative worship services such as his "First Person Sermons" where he portrays biblical characters such as Isaiah, Amos, Judas, and the Roman centurion.

In 1973, under the music ministry of C. Truitt Roberts, the church purchased its first set of handbells. Under his direction, the handbell choirs have traveled to such places as Brazil,

Washington, D.C., and Canada. By 1976, the church was recognized as having the largest music ministry in Mississippi.

The most recent construction project occurred in 1979 when the Applegate Building was added to house the music, youth, and educational programs.

Out of pride and respect for the church's history, the members voted in 1984 to restore the old sanctuary, which had been used for classrooms until the construction of the Applegate Building. The restoration project is scheduled to be completed by August.

Promise for the future . . .

The mid-1980s held some sorrowful times for the church. In November 1983, the Lloyds' youngest daughter, Linda, was killed in a car accident while returning to college in Birmingham. Deaths of three of the church

leaders made 1985 an especially hard year: in April, minister of music, C. Truitt Roberts; in August, minister of education, Bob Crutcher; and in December, pastor emeritus, D. C. Applegate.

Despite the losses of these leaders, the various ministries have continued to grow at First Baptist. Minister of music, Tanner Riley, who joined the staff in 1986, was instrumental in obtaining a Moehler pipe organ for the sanctuary. Minister of education, Ted Taylor, has launched innovative programs and increased emphasis on family needs.

The ministry to youth and university students has continued to be a priority for the church under the guidance of minister of students, Jeff Powell. After joining the FBC staff in 1985, he began PARTY (Presenting Authentic Religion To Youth) meetings on Wednesday nights. In 1988, worship services were reorganized to allow for a university student-led worship with Pastor Lloyd preaching, during the hour other members are in Sunday School.

Linda Moore is a member of First Church, Starkville.



First Church, Starkville, was host to the Mississippi Baptist Convention in 1877 and again in 1896. Messengers at one of those annual meetings gather, above, in front of the Starkville church. The old sanctuary shown, now called the chapel, is being restored.

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

Take care of the children

The institutions of the Mississippi Baptist Convention are privileged to go before the churches of the convention with requests for money on specified occasions. One of those occasions is Mother's Day, and the institution designated for an offering on that day is the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village.

The Baptist Record always tries to support this request, particularly because the money that is forthcoming goes to help the Village care for children who would have no other place to turn.

So we must call the attention of the churches to the forthcoming offering for that purpose and ask that the members of the churches be generous as they participate in the offering.

The Children's Village is not a home for orphans anymore. In fact, its residents are not young children particularly. To a great extent they are teenagers who need help. In most, if not all, of the cases, the Children's Village could be the last resort. Those children may have been abused or abandoned, but they need someone to help them; and we have been given that mandate by the Lord himself.

It takes more money, however, to care for a teenager than it does for a younger child. So the Mother's Day offerings are a vital necessity.

There is more to it than that, this year, however. Once again the Village

has pointed out that offerings have not come up to expectations, and a crisis is in the offing.

The Mother's Day offering is just around the corner, and this is a plea for generous support of that fundraising effort through the churches. But the financial need is more urgent than can be addressed by waiting until Mother's Day, so the Village has appealed to individual Mississippi Baptists to come to its aid. It cannot ask the churches to help meet this additional, for it can go to the churches only at Mother's Day. Thus it has turned to individuals for help.

It needs to be emphasized that this is a cash flow problem only. The Village is not in danger of financial collapse, but there are needs that must be met. For instance, insurance cost has skyrocketed this year.

There may be those who think that the successful conclusion of the Mississippi Mission should have taken care of everything, but it must be remembered that that is an endowment fund. It will be years before there will be significant income from that effort. And the Children's Village is the recipient of only 10 percent of a portion of the income from Mississippi Mission. In other words, when all of the money has come in for Mississippi Mission, the Village portion will not be \$4 million because of the various options that were possible. More likely, it will be \$1 million or

less, though the Village officials did not point this out. It is simply from the figuring by the editor.

The efforts of the Mississippi Mission, however, may have caused some to feel that money is not so desperately needed anymore. Such is not the case.

So while this is a plea on the one hand not to let the Mother's Day offering suffer, there are more immediate needs that must be met at the moment.

The children who are residents of the Village are our children. We must take care of them. We cannot afford to allow our own family to suffer, especially our children.

Mississippi Baptists need to know that 87 fewer churches made offerings to the Village in 1988 than did so in 1987. Also it has been five years since the goal of the Mother's Day offering has been met. Over the last 15 years, two-thirds of the appeals of the Village have been short at least 20 percent.

So this is not a situation that developed overnight. While the Village has continued to meet its obligations, the money with which to do so has been dwindling. What is needed right now is unrestricted operations cash. Designated offerings are fine, but they are not what is needed right now. There are bills to be paid that are the result of escalating costs matched against dwindling income. We must take care of our children.



Baptist Beliefs . . . Kingdom greatness

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant." — Matthew 20:27

Even among the 12 apostles there was a constant power struggle as to greatness in Christ's kingdom. James and John had just asked for the two chief places in it. The other 10 resented it, for each wanted that role. Jesus said their efforts were according to the pagan standard. In verses 26-27 he gave the kingdom standard of greatness.

Note "great" (v. 26) and "chief" or "first" (v. 27). In verse 26 Jesus said, "Let him be your minister" or diakonos. In verse 27 He used "servant" (doulos). Both words were used for slaves. Doulos denotes status, a slave over against a free man.

Diakonos refers to the service rendered by a doulos or slave.

In verse 28 Jesus said that even he came not to be ministered to but to minister, even to giving his life as a ransom for lost people. "For many" was the Hebrew way of saying "for all." The verb forms in verse 28 are those related to diakonos. Jesus did not win our faith and love by cracking a whip over our heads. He did it by the service he rendered on our behalf, even to the point of dying for us.

The world judges greatness by the number of people who serve us. God judges it by the number of people we serve. Which standard are you following?

Herschel Hobbs is pastor emeritus of First Church, Oklahoma City.

Tragedy in Ethiopia

Tragedy is no respecter of persons; and yet it seems that in the far reaches of some remote areas served by our missionaries, the possibility of tragedy is more acute than we have to deal with in our daily lives in the United States.

Sam and Ginny Cannata are cases in point. Those folks, it would seem, are genuine heroes of the faith. They are missionaries in Tanzania, and they have always been found where the need is the greatest. They have not seemed to regard their own personal circumstances or safety as they have served.

Years ago, Sam, a medical doctor, was treating a boy in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) when the boy coughed. Foreign matter entered one of Sam's eyes, and he lost the sight in it.

Later Sam was arrested by the Ethiopian government, where they were serving at the time, on a trumped up charge. He was released following a 24-hour prayer vigil by the other missionaries.

Now has come a more real tragedy than any of the other situations. Their 27-year-old son, a volunteer worker in Ethiopia, for the Foreign Mission Board, was killed in a pickup accident

on a mountainside in Ethiopia. The Cannatas were a long way from other family members when the tragedy struck. Ginny Cannata is from Hollandale, Miss. Her father died in December, but she could not come back for the funeral because she could not be reached with the word in time to make the trip.

Though there are other missionaries close by in most instances, it must be a lonely experience to face such circumstances so far from home. Surely we will remember the Cannatas in this time of sadness.

Guest opinion . . .

We must be reconciled

By Robert E. Shaw

It is disturbing to read about the division among those of the Christian faith, especially our Southern Baptist Convention. We who have read and studied the Bible can call to mind many instructions to correct the division.

First of all, I would like to remind all who will read this that there was great division among the apostles and members of the church at Antioch (Galatians chapter 2). Paul's main

commission was to the Gentiles, while Peter's main commission was to the Jews. For the most part, the Southern Baptist Convention is made up of Gentiles saved by grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We can see in Gal. 2 that some of the apostles were trying to compel members to live by their standards, creating sharp division. They all knew it was wrong for the church to be divided as it was; therefore, they all

had a meeting to resolve the differences. This is recorded in chapter 15 of Acts.

When anyone reads and studies chapter two of Galatians he should also read chapter 15 of Acts, for in this chapter you can see how and what they agreed to, thus bringing rejoicing and consolation to the members of the church at Antioch. If each of the

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Trends in religious life stay largely unchanged

PRINCETON, N.J. (EP) — American religious life continues to be remarkably stable, according to a study released by the Gallup organization. The study found little change in church or synagogue attendance or membership, and in the importance placed on religion.

In a typical week of 1988, 42 percent of adults attended church or synagogue, according to the poll. This figure has stayed steady since 1969, though it has declined from its high point of 49 percent in 1955 and 1958. The attendance figures in the study are based on polls during selected weeks of May and October, 1988.

The 1988 audit also found that two-thirds (67 percent) of U.S. adults say they are members of a church or synagogue, the lowest figure recorded, but changed little from the previous year's report.

A majority of those surveyed (54 percent) say they consider religion to be very important; this figure represents no significant change from the previous year, but is down sharply from the high point recorded in 1952, when 75 percent said they considered religion to be very important.

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CLC seminar focuses on sanctity of life

By Dan Martin & Louis Moore

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — Speakers at a sanctity of life seminar ranged from discussion of a letter-writing campaign to Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor to the question of care for handicapped babies in an abortion-free society.

The speakers delivered their addresses during the Christian Life Commission's annual seminar here to 209 registered participants.

"We wanted to help people understand this is a comprehensive subject. People have complained that sanctity of life is more than an abortion issue."

We have tried to address that, said Richard Land, CLC executive director. "We talked about abortion but also about many other issues such as hunger, euthanasia, pornography, genetic engineering, teenage suicide, sexuality, and alcohol and drug abuse."

During the conference, which drew 209 registered participants, two speakers concentrated on abortion, although others touched on the issue as they spoke on other topics.

Gary Bauer, a former White House staff member and now vice president of Focus on the Family, who spoke on child pornography, announced a letter-writing campaign to the U.S. Supreme Court on a pending abortion case.

Writing letters to the court is not common, he said, but added, "Justices are affected by public opinion." He said four justices favor current abortion rulings, while four are opposed. "I encourage you to write to Justice Sandra Day O'Connor whose vote is in doubt," he said.

In a keynote address, author Calvin Miller, pastor of Westside Church in Omaha, Neb., told participants, "With every little life we scrape from the womb, we die a little more." The United States, with 1.8 children per family, "is an aging, dying nation," he said.

"By 2025, a scant 35 years from now, the U.S. will have twice as many grandparents as babies. Our burials will soar as our births decline," he said, noting the "command of God to be fruitful and multiply. The whole point of this paper is that being fruitful and multiplying go together

... (and) we sin by being unfruitful and vanishing from the face of the earth."

Kenneth Kantzer, former editor of Christianity Today, now emeritus dean of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill., traced a position that would allow abortion when the life of the mother is threatened, in cases of rape or incest, or when severe fetal deformity occurs. Such cases, he said, "account for only one-half of 1 percent of all abortions."

Commenting that a "careful appraisal of the American scene makes it evident that no absolutist law or constitutional amendment (banning abortions) has the remotest chance of passing in the near future," Kantzer said: "Some sort of law that would at least eliminate one of the most frightening trends of our day — abortion on demand — is well within our reach."

"If evangelicals and their political and social allies who support laws against abortion would prove far-sighted enough and cooperative enough to pass such a law, would be prepared for the consequences? Tens of thousands of babies, now aborted, would be brought to term. Many would prove viable; would live and some would grow to maturity but would be deformed."

"Are we prepared to share in the care of these handicapped babies? If we cannot answer yes to these questions, we have no right on moral grounds to oppose their abortion" he said.

On pornography, Thomas Parker, professor of counseling at Dallas Theological Seminary, told participants enough anti-pornography laws already exist — if enforced — to begin making a dent in the pornography industry.

He urged the CLC to publish materials on helping citizens pursue passage of other anti-pornography laws.

Death — suicide and euthanasia — were addressed by two speakers.

Dallas psychiatrist Paul Warren said children and adolescents are "in a state of crisis" because of rampant drug abuse, spreading teenage

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Gulfshore wing to be dedicated

Dedication services for the new wing of Gulfshore Baptist Assembly at Pass Christian will be held May 12 and 13, according to an announcement by Earl Kelly, executive director-treasurer for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The observation will begin on Friday evening with a program speaking to the development of the assembly and will conclude Saturday at noon. The Saturday morning session will be the dedication observation.

The new wing will add accommodations for 172, bringing the total of 528. There will be two efficiency apartments for four persons each, 20 twin

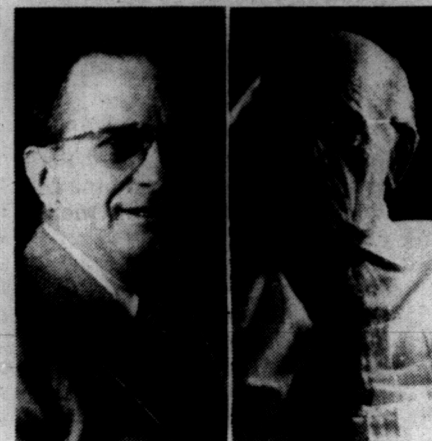
bedded rooms, and 16 rooms with 8 bunk beds each.

On the ground floor will be the bookstore and classrooms.

The three story structure is of hurricane-proof construction.

Rooms are available on a reservation basis for those desiring to attend the dedication, Kelly said. Reservations may be made by calling Gulfshore at 868-2048.

James L. Sullivan and Grady Cothen, both retired presidents of the Baptist Sunday School Board, and both Mississippi natives, will speak on the occasion, as will Jim Griffith, executive director-treasurer of the Georgia Baptist Convention.



Cothen

Sullivan

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

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Allen resigns RTVC post; new ACTS bids received

By Dan Martin

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Jimmy R. Allen has resigned as president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission and will join a new group seeking to purchase the ACTS network, if the effort is successful.

Allen, who has headed the agency since January 1980, tendered his resignation during the April 10-11 commission meeting here.

The effective date is May 1, with a termination date of June 30. Trustees elected Executive Vice President Richard T. McCartney, 61, as interim chief executive officer.

Board Chairman Harold Brundige, an attorney from Martin, Tenn., named a five-member search committee to seek Allen's successor. Members are Brundige; incoming Chairman Mike Hamlett, pastor of First Church, North Spartanburg, S.C.; Jewel Morris, a shopping center owner from Fort Smith, Ark.; T.W. Terral, director of Baptist associational missions in Baton Rouge, La.; and Ernie Helton, an engineer from Columbus, Ohio.

Trustees also received three new bids for the purchase of the American Christian Television System, the network launched by the commission in 1984.

One of the bids was from a group calling itself Investors and Friends of Acts, which has offered Allen the position of president and chief executive officer if its bid is successful.

Brundige declined to identify the other groups, but did say none of the bids was accepted because none offered enough money for the network, which now is accessible to more than 9 million homes across the nation.

The commission has been involved in negotiations for the sale of ACTS — which has been a financial drain on the agency since it was launched — for more than a year with a group based in San Antonio, Texas.

The group, headed by advertising executive Center (Chip) Atkins, offered the commission \$34 million for the network and guaranteed five hours per day for RTVC programming on the network for 30 years.

After three extensions and unsuccessful fund-raising efforts, the offer expired March 14.

Though Friends of ACTS paid earnest money, that waiting period cost ACTS roughly a half million dollars in transponder time plus other costs, McCartney told the Baptist Record. "The main costs were in legal fees, tax consulting fees, and the uncertainty (over the sale) cost us some development funds," said McCartney.

"We don't know how many of the cancelled pledges are due to the announcement of the sale," he said. "There have been some costs to us, but it's difficult to separate them out and come to a final figure."

McCartney said that the trustees will make certain the next interested purchasers have the resources. One offer came from a group which said it would post the whole amount up front through a bonding company.

The commission is "in accord... together," Brundige said. "Our accord is to sell ACTS if we get the price we want, and if not, to keep it and operate it."

He declined to say how much the commission wants for ACTS, noting the price "depends on how badly someone out there wants it."

Allen, who appeared in the meeting only to resign and to make the new offer to the trustee executive committee, later told reporters his new group had offered \$10 million for the network and would guarantee four hours of programming per day for 12 years.

Allen declined to name the nine investors forming Investors and Friends of Acts, other than Ralph Tacker, a Dallas businessman and president of

D/FW Uplink, through which the network beams its signal to the Spacenet II satellite.

Trustees spent most of the April 10-11 meeting in executive session.

First, they met for nearly five hours discussing commission matters with its seven vice presidents.

Brundige predicted more involvement by the board in the operations of the commission and the network, noting, "We are going to be more informed."

Allen said he regretted that SBC decision makers had not freed up more mission strategy money for ACTS. In 1978, he said, the RTVC received 5.09 percent of the Southern Baptist unified budget, and in 1988-89 it will receive only 4 percent.

If the new purchase effort is not successful, Allen said, he has other alternatives, including working with a "people-to-people" peace organization, helping a company build low-power TV stations, and a "pulpit committee or two has made contact with me."

In other actions during the April meeting, trustees:

— Elected new officers. Hamlett was named chairman; Lawson, first vice chair; Stevens, second vice chair; and Steve Huffman, a certified public accountant from Papillion, Neb., secretary.

— Adopted a resolution asking the Executive Committee to grant a one-time exception to a requirement that all short-term borrowing be paid back within the same fiscal year.

McCartney said the commission had borrowed \$625,000 on short-term notes and has paid the debt down to \$445,000.

The loans were taken out, he said, "in full expectation that the sale of the ACTS network would enable the loan to be repaid in advance of the deadline" of April 27.

Dan Martin is BP news editor.

Missionaries return to work in Burundi

BUJUMBURA, Burundi (BP) — Two missionary couples who had planned to work in Zaire are instead learning the Kirundi language and preparing to reopen Southern Baptist work in the east African nation of Burundi.

The newly arrived missionaries are Jeff and Mary Polglase and Dennis and Margaret McCall. The Polglases are from Tucson, Ariz., and Dallas, respectively. The McCalls are from Vicksburg, Miss., and Louisville, Ky.

The Polglases were living in Uvira, Zaire, when problems with their residence permits surfaced. They were reassigned to Burundi. The McCalls, who were studying language in France and bound for Zaire, instead transferred to join the Polglases in Bujumbura, Burundi's capital.

Southern Baptist missionaries left Burundi in 1986 because of govern-

ment restrictions. Burundi Baptist leaders, however, continued to attend international workshops and conferences with other African Baptists and missionaries.

A change in government has allowed Southern Baptists to re-enter the country.

Burundi's majority Hutu and minority Tutsi peoples both speak Kirundi. Many Burundians also speak French. Last year underlying tension between the Tutsis and Hutus broke into open violence. Missionaries hope to work with both groups.

As an agricultural evangelist, McCall plans to continue the work of Fred and Sami Sorrells in the Kirundo area. The Sorrellses, now assigned to Madagascar off the African coast, helped Baptists in eastern Burundi grow from three churches to

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CLC focuses on sanctity of life

(Continued from page 3)

suicide, parental divorce and other psychological problems. He urged Southern Baptists to work to lead parents to a deeper commitment to parenting and to strive to give children a biblically-based sense of self-esteem.

Thomas E. Elkins, professor of medical ethics at the University of Michigan Medical School in Ann Arbor, said now is the time for Christians to develop a thoughtful, carefully constructed, biblical approach to the thorny and difficult issues involving euthanasia and to offer to society a model for how to approach the issue.

Graham Kerr, the Galloping Gourmet on television in the 1960s and 1970s, now heads Creative Lifestyles, International in Tacoma, Wash., "a resource center that helps people live better with less and share part of their savings with those in desperate need."

During the 30 minutes he spoke, Kerr said, 40 people will die in the United States from diet-related diseases, and "828 kids will die worldwide from diet-related diseases. That is a 21-to-1 ratio; one of us dies from eating too much and 21 die from eating too little."

Mark Coppenger, executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, told participants genetic engineering is both boon and bane, "but the same holds true for VCRs, fire and procreation." He noted Christians "will not and should not derail research and development.... As with every human endeavor this science will involve wasteful and pernicious practices, but there is nothing in principle which should scuttle the enterprise."

"While receiving the technology, we must steel ourselves against its abuse and prepare ourselves to take advantage of its promise" he said.

Southern trustees OK two dozen recommendations

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Southern Seminary trustees dispatched three days of business during their annual meeting on campus here April 3-5, approving without dissent more than two dozen recommendations from the seminary's administration and trustee committees.

Trustees adopted a \$14.9 million operating budget for 1989-90, a 1 percent increase over the 1988-89 budget; approved a series of personnel recommendations, including the addition of three faculty members; and negotiated an accelerated procedure for electing new trustees to the 63 member board.

The three new faculty members, all elected with tenure, are Charles B. Bugg, pastor of First Church, Augusta, Ga., as the Carl E. Bates professor of Christian preaching; John P. Dever, professor of religion and sociology and assistant dean for academic records at Averett College in Danville, Va., as professor of church and community; and John W. Landon, professor of social work and associate dean of the College of Social Work at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, as professor of church social work.

To cope with a problem in the charter which has SBC-elected trustees elected again by the seminary trustees the next April, trustees voted unanimously to accept

Richard Foster, professor of theology at Friends University in Wichita, Kan., said: "One of the real tragedies in Christian history has been the divorce of sexuality from spirituality. That fact is all the more lamentable since the Bible holds such a high celebrative view of human sexuality."

"Our human sexuality is not just an accidental arrangement of the human species, not just a convenient way to keep the human race going. No, it is at the center of our true humanity. We exist as male and female in relationship. Our sexualness, our capacity to love and be loved, is intimately tied to our creation in the image of God."

Pollster George Gallup Jr. of Princeton, N.J., recounted results from polls of religious views and said a "large majority of Americans believe in a personal God, believe that Jesus Christ is God or the Son of God, believe their prayers are answered and say that religion is either very or fairly important in their lives."

He added: "Surveys show that while eight in 10 Americans regard themselves as Christians, only four in 10 know who, according to the Bible, delivered the Sermon on the Mount; fewer than half of the public are able to name the four Gospels. Many say the Ten Commandments are valid rules for living, but they're not too sure what these rules are."

"And if vast numbers of Christians do not know who delivered the Sermon on the Mount, it is highly unlikely that they have any grasp of central Christian doctrines such as the Incarnation, the atonement and grace, perhaps the most crucial concept in Christian theology because it refers to the free and unmerited act through which God restores an estranged humanity."

those trustee nominations to be presented to the SBC annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., in June and to elect those trustees as members of the board. In an effort to achieve a long-term solution, trustees also asked Chairman Alton Butler of Florida to appoint a special committee to study the seminary charter for possible revision, in consultation with legal counsel. The committee was requested to make a progress report at the 1990 annual meeting, with a final report to be made in 1991.

In other actions, trustees: — Voted to present the seminary's highest award, the E.Y. Mullins Denominational Service Award, to R. Keith Parks, president of the SBC Foreign Mission Board.

— Re-elected officers for 1989-90: Alton Butler, pastor of Myrtle Grove Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla., chairman; Sam McMahon, chairman of the board of Southeast Commercial Corp., Charlotte, N.C., first vice chairman and chairman of the executive committee; William Causey, pastor of Parkway Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., second vice chairman; and Fred Pfannenschmidt, vice president of Coldwell Banker, Louisville, secretary.

— Approved establishment of the J.M. Frost Sunday School Board chair of Christian education.

capsules

'Big God' seen in relief efforts

ANTIQUE, Philippines — Southern Baptist relief funds supplied milk, rice, thatch and bamboo to Panay Island in the Visayas after three typhoons struck within two weeks. The food and rebuilding supplies were distributed to needy church members and neighbors who heard the gospel preached before receiving aid.

One man remarked, "Your church is still small, yet you are able to provide this?"

A church member answered, "It was given by our God," to which the first man replied, "You have a big God."

Simplified Bibles printed in China

NANJING, China — The first copies of Bibles printed in the simplified script used by younger Chinese were scheduled to arrive in Shanghai churches by Easter. The Amity Press in Nanjing, run by Chinese Christians, is printing the Bibles.

The simplified script reduces the number of strokes needed to reproduce many of the 7,000 to 8,000 Chinese characters and makes it possible to typeset the entire Chinese Bible by computer. Amity Press aims to put the simplified Bibles in the hands of millions of Chinese, especially young people.

Students witness during break

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — More than 1,975 people made decisions for Christ as a result of witnessing and preaching by students from Southwestern Seminary during the school's spring evangelism practicum.

The decisions included 500 professions of faith in Christ made as the students led revivals in 35 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and four Canadian provinces during Southwestern's spring break.

More than 225 students participated in the practicum, said Dan Crawford, associate professor at Southwestern and director of the program. Students preached 1,284 sermons, led 84 witness training sessions, distributed more than 4,300 gospel tracts and gave away nearly 270 New Testaments.

Bible club allowed

OMAHA, Neb. (EP) — An Omaha high school can't deny students the right to meet voluntarily as an after-school Bible club for fellowship and Bible study, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit has ruled. The Court ruled that Westside High School qualifies as an open forum under the Federal Equal Access Act, and cannot allow some student clubs while forbidding students to form a Bible club.

Christmas law

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. (EP) — Oklahoma's schoolchildren will be able to acknowledge that Christmas is the celebration of Christ's birth, if an amendment approved by the state's House of Representatives becomes law.

Vines calls for renewal commitment to witnessing

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — Jerry Vines, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has issued a statement calling for renewed commitment to Christian witnessing and evangelism as Southern Baptists move toward their 1989 annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev.

Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., said: "The Southern Baptist Convention expresses the biblical basis of its unity in a most practical way. The convention's work of evangelism and missions places Southern Baptists in the forefront of nationwide and worldwide efforts to propagate the gospel of Jesus Christ. We understand our mandate from the Captain of our salvation."

"This year as president... has given me an opportunity to re-emphasize the importance of personal commitment to the matter of Christian witnessing. I have been very pleased by the response this emphasis has received from all parts of our denomination. I sense throughout our

denominational life a renewed commitment to winning the lost to Jesus Christ."

"The (Southern Baptist) Foreign Mission Board has restated the priority of evangelism in all its missionary programs and procedures. This is not a new direction for foreign missions, but a recommitment to what has been all along its stated direction."

"The (Southern Baptist) Home Mission Board is leading us in a witnessing effort for the convention session in Las Vegas. This effort will enable the messengers to express an evangelistic concern for the beloved people of Las Vegas."

"I commend our Foreign Mission Board and encourage our people to share in the witnessing efforts arranged by the Home Mission Board."

"I renew my personal commitment to evangelism and missions," Vines said.

"I encourage every Southern Baptist leader, denominational servant, pastor, and layperson to join with me in this renewed commitment."

Divine verses of the Bible shed light on 'Satanic Verses'

MOMBASA, Kenya (EP) — More than 1,100 Moslems in Kenya and seven neighboring middle-eastern nations have recently rejected the Koran in favor of the Christian Bible. Recent converts have expressed views in sharp contrast to Moslems who have in recent weeks demanded the death of Salman Rushdie, author of the controversial book, "The Satanic Verses."

"The dispute over Salman Rushdie's novel is viewed very differently by converted Moslems in East Africa," said David Stravers, spokesman for

World Home Bible League, a ministry that has targetted African Moslems for gospel outreach. When these people read the Bible they suddenly discovered what they have been missing. They have had the lights turned on. They begin to understand all the harm which Satan has done by keeping them in the dark for so long."

Over 4,000 patients are treated daily in Baptist hospitals and clinics around the world. Yet, 1.5 billion have no access to medical care.

Golden Gate to study relocation

BREA, Calif. (BP) — Trustees of Golden Gate Seminary have voted to study the possibility of selling the Mill Valley, Calif., main campus and relocating the seminary.

Ironically, the regular April 3-5 session was held at the Southern California seminary campus in Brea, where trustees helped dedicate new facilities for one of two branch campuses. The other branch is located in Portland, Ore.

Trustees also voted a \$5.6 million budget for the 1989-90 year, a decrease of 2.7 percent — or \$130,000 — from the current budget.

The vote to explore the "options for the best use of the Mill Valley property" came without dissent by the trustees following a proposal made by the seminary's administration and discussed in executive session by the

trustees.

President William O. Crews Jr. and staff will work with representatives of the faculty, students, a long-range planning committee and the trustees for consideration and action.

"This action is not a decision to move or sell our property," Crews said. "However, it does allow for us to study all options, including possible relocation."

In other business, trustees elected Michael D. Thompson as dean of students and assistant professor of spiritual formation, effective Aug. 1. He currently is acting dean of students.

Trustees elected Herman E. Wooten of Elk Grove, Calif., chairman; John R. (Dick) Lincoln of Columbia, S.C., vice chairman; and Stephen P. Davis of Russellville, Ark., secretary.

Missionaries return to Burundi

(Continued from page 3) about a dozen before they left three years ago, McCall said.

"When Fred moved over there, that was all new work," McCall said.

"Things really seemed to be popping. They couldn't go to every place they were being requested to go to."

Most Baptist churches are located in the northern half of the country. Danish Baptists began the first permanent evangelical witness in Burundi in 1928 and have continued working there. The Union of Baptist Churches in Burundi now includes 17 churches,

many of which support large mission congregations, McCall said.

One mission, with a membership of about 640 members, just constituted as a church, McCall added. Many others are just as large. Burundians call their mission churches "outschools."

Polglase, administrator for mission work in the country, will help develop churches in Bujumbura. He also will work alongside Danes and Burundians in the Baptist union's pastors' school in Mataba.

Thursday, April 20, 1989



Bob and Jan Sailey sing during the Baptist Men's Conference held recently at Parkway Church, Jackson. More than 300 laymen attended the conference which featured a missions emphasis and fellowship meetings of special interest groups working in volunteer missions.



Mary Frank Kirkpatrick, former missionary to Nigeria, speaks to the Educational Missions Fellowship during the Baptist Men's Conference.

680 participate in keyboard festivals

In the 11 Mississippi area keyboard festivals for 1989, there was a total of 680 participants with another 297 persons assisting as judges, group leaders, and assistants, with 277 Baptist churches represented by one or more participants, and another 105 non-Baptist churches represented. The associational keyboard festivals had 334 participants.

The festivals took place at Harrisburg Church, Tupelo; First, Laurel; Poplar Springs Dr., Meridian; First, Vicksburg; Fairview, Columbus; First, McComb; First, Pascagoula; Temple, Hattiesburg; Second, Greenville; Colonial Hills, Southaven; and First, Jackson.

Participants in the area keyboard festivals, which are sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Church Music Department, are those students in grades one through 12 who are capable of playing from the Simplified Baptist Hymnal or the Standard Baptist Hymnal, 1956 or 1975 editions. The Mississippi Baptist associations sponsor keyboard festivals for beginning students who are not yet ready to play from the Simplified or Standard Hymnal.

"Say, pray, pay," Futral tells men

By Tim Nicholas

Mississippi Baptist Convention President Jim Futral told about Jesus' "Missions Monosyllables" during the recent Baptist Men's Conference at Parkway Church, Jackson. The conference is sponsored by the Mississippi Brotherhood Department.

Using John 4 as a text, Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, Futral said that missions information needs to be simplified for people. For instance, saying that \$160 million is needed, just for the foreign missions operation is "hard for me to comprehend."

He said to simplify it, say instead that Jesus wants "one of you to share with one of them."

"Say" was the first missions

monosyllable Futral used. He said the work of missions still needs to be done. Some have been in church so long "crust has grown over our spiritual ears."

Concerning the word "pray," Futral said that "Jesus never carries the gospel anywhere you and I are not willing to go." He told of Helen Jean Parks, wife of FMB President Keith Parks, telling Broadmoor members of the FMB having to cut budget by 12 percent. She said that translates, for instance, to having to stop a radio signal going into Albania, "one of the most lost countries in the world."

Futral said a man called to say that whatever it takes to put that signal back on the air, he would pay.

He said it is "far easier to listen to a missions sermon than to actually go on one's 'way' into missions. Futral said that going is not easy. He said that Clarence Griffin, working in Indonesia where there is trouble in renewing visas, has applied to become a citizen of Indonesia so he can continue ministering there.

Fourth, Futral said Baptists have to "pay." "For the first time since those depression years, we are not able to send the missionaries that are ready to go," he added, "the day will never come when we can stop sowing. This is God's business; we need to invest in it."

Special interest groups meeting

along with the Men's Conference, included state organizations of volunteers: Agricultural Missions, Educational Missions, Church Renewal, Hams, and Construction.

Ag Missions elected officers. They are Malcolm Broome, Hattiesburg, president; James Smith, D'Lo, vice president; Fred McCrory, Brandon, secretary; and Bobby Redding, Jackson, projects coordinator.

And the Educational Missions Fellowship elected officers. They are S.A. Moorhead, Oxford, president; Bill Rieves, Tupelo, vice president; Mary Libby Payne, Pearl, secretary; and Hal Buchanan, Tupelo, projects coordinator.

New Orleans students minister in Mexico

By Breena Kent Paine

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Eleven people from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary spent the week before Easter preaching, teaching and healing in Juarez, Mexico.

Their mission was to work in a clinic adjacent to Iglesia Bautista de Peniel, or Baptist Church of Peniel, to minister in a children's home run by the church's pastor and to lead revival

services for the community.

The mission team's housing was in El Paso, Texas; but members crossed the border to Juarez every day, an eye-opening experience for those who had never been to a Third World country.

"After only two days, we were very close as a group. We had shared in seeing Juarez together and were

equally shocked and burdened by what we saw," said Todd Allen, Student Body Association president from Jackson, Miss.

"It was heartbreaking watching old (Mexican) men pushing their crates around," said Benny Jones, seminary director of student affairs and church-minister relations. "They would go across the border (to El Paso) and gather cardboard boxes to take back with them. They were using the boxes to build their homes."

The contrast of the homes, manicured lawns, and high-rises of El Paso was striking against the poverty-stricken homes and the dry, dusty streets of Juarez, participants said. On the first evening, "we drove to an overlook on the side of a hill at night," Allen said. "We prayed with our eyes open as we looked at El Paso and Juarez. We prayed for the city (of Juarez), and we prayed... that we would be able to encourage the church and win people to Christ. 'And that happened,'" Allen said.

During revival services that week, seven people made professions of faith in Christ, and about 30 people rededicated their lives to Christ, Jones said.

During the week, the group took the pastor's family with them to interpret and went from house to house, passing out written testimonies and tracts, and inviting the people to revival services.

"Afterwards, the people from those homes climbed up the dirt hill, walked across the sewers, and went to the meager church building. From there,

they could see El Paso. They knew the differences of El Paso and Juarez," Allen said. "Even so, they sang so beautifully from their hearts."

"I thought, 'Jesus has to be alive because they don't have any other reason to sing except for Jesus Christ.'"

One unique way of reaching people for Christ was through the medical clinic. Throughout the week, George Faile, a physician, and student from Rome, Ga., and Sherrie Bumstead, a nurse and student from Beaumont, Texas, saw about 20 patients ranging in ages from one month to 66 years.

"Usually, the people we saw in the clinic ended up at the church that night" for revival services, Bumstead said.

Bumstead, who helped Faile by interviewing patients and taking vital signs, said the trip reconfirmed her call to missions: "I was feeling a need to see a need, and this renewed the desire and burden. I was there to minister, but I was being ministered to."

"Even though the language was a huge barrier, we could still worship with them. Even though I couldn't understand what they said in Spanish, I could feel the Spirit of the Lord in the worship services."

The seminary's Student Body Association hopes to plan a similar same trip again next, mainly because "it gives our students an opportunity to see what missions is like," said Jones.

Breena Kent Paine writes for NOBTS.

Doctors and dentists will hear missionary to Hong Kong

The annual Mississippi Medical-Dental Fellowship meeting on May 4 will feature Lewis Smith, a medical missionary working in Hong Kong, as guest speaker.

The meeting, which includes a banquet, will take place at First Church, Jackson, with fellowship and registration at 6 and the banquet and program at 6:30. Cost will be \$10 per person.

The meeting is open to all Baptist medical and dental professionals including physicians, dentists, residents, medical and dental students, optometrists, pharmacists, and nurses.

To register, write the Brotherhood Department, MBCB, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, or phone 968-3800. Deadline is April 27.

Education ministers will meet

A conference for ministers of education will take place in Jackson, May 2, with Max Caldwell and Will Beal as dialogue leaders.

The conference will be at the Baptist Building and begins at 9:15 a.m., concluding at 3:15 that afternoon. Lunch is provided by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which is hosting the meeting.

Caldwell is director of youth and adults at the Sunday School Department and Beal is church staff support consultant in the church administration department, both at the Sunday School Board.

For details, contact Julius Thompson in the Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department, MBCB, at 968-3800.

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Lepsogs put in a plug for lay renewal

The Lepsog Clowns, Stepho, Niko, and LooLu, were guests at First Church, Brandon's Youth Sunday School on April 2. A lay renewal weekend was held April 7-9 at First, Brandon. The clowns (Lepsog is Gospel spelled backward), members of the lay renewal team, presented a pre-lay renewal program aimed at getting the Brandon youths ready to commit the following weekend to their church. Above, Stepho talks about "the burning Bible" and says, "We need to burn God's Word in our hearts by memorizing it and by praying. God loves you and I do, too." The love theme was to be emphasized in the lay renewal weekend. Stepho is Stephanie Wallace of Concord Church, Rankin County; Niko is Nikki Miller, Emmanuel Church, Pearl; LooLu is Alison Rogers of First Church, Morton.



LooLu explains how Paul had a thorn in the flesh. Just as she sticks a needle into the balloon, it may pop. She says, "Our faith may pop when the devil lets us get more concerned about what others think of us than what God thinks." The balloon does not pop. "That's the way our faith needs to be. When we are pricked with a temptation," she says, "we need to stand on the Word and not pop." The prescription bottles hold pills — love pills, forgiveness pills, grouch pills, happiness pills, and smile pills. The clowns' prescription: "Take two. Give one to someone else. Pray. Get plenty of rest and share Jesus Christ." Left to right are Alison, Stephanie, and Nikki. The girls, "clowns for Christ's sake," will be on program at Pelahatchie Church April 23 at 7 p.m. They were guests at the Leake County Baptist Youth Rally and have also presented programs at McDowell Road, Jackson; Parkway, Jackson; First, Ridgeland; Louise; and other churches.

Book reviews

Salmon, Bruce C.: **STORYTELLING IN PREACHING: A GUIDE TO THE THEORY AND PRACTICE**; Nashville: Broadman; 1988.

The author is pastor of Village Baptist Church, Bowie, Md. He holds degrees from Baylor University and Southern Seminary.

The author states in the preface, "This is a book for persons for whom preaching does not come easy." The author goes on to say "This book is founded on the conviction that sermons can be improved through the skillful use of stories."

Suppose you were to ask someone what they remember most from a sermon. The majority would probably cite some story or illustration the preacher used. That is what this book is all about.

The author devotes two chapters of the book to the subject of the gospel as story. He then devotes a couple of chapters to the art of storytelling in preaching and the many ways stories can be used.

The book is different. It is not your typical book on preaching. The author does not attempt to convince you of the importance of preaching or to give you a detailed outline for developing a sermon. Instead, he strives to help us realize the importance of using good stories in our sermons. Every preacher should read the book. Reviewed by Greg Potts, pastor, Providence Church, Meadville.

Engstrom, Ted W. and Larson, Robert C. **SEIZING THE TORCH: LEADERSHIP FOR A NEW GENERATION**.

Most clergymen have heard of Ted Engstrom. This is his latest book in the field of leadership.

The book deals with the fact that many of today's leaders are going to be retiring in the next few years. There is a need for a new generation of leaders to rise up in the Christian church to lead the church into the 21st century.

Much of the material in the book is found in other leadership books by Mr. Engstrom. He deals with such subjects as "Motivation," "Goal-setting," "Enthusiasm," and "Decision-Making."

It is thought-provoking and stimulating.

Reviewed by Greg Potts, pastor of Providence church, Meadville.

Atkinson, Donald A. **A BARNABAS LIFE-STYLE**. Nashville: Broadman, 1987.

This is a helpful book built around the New Testament character of Barnabas. The author deals with four aspects of Barnabas' personality that cause him to stand out in the New Testament. These traits are his generosity, his ability to look for the best in people and find it, his willingness to follow, and his willingness to forgive.

The author closes the book with an appeal for "Barnabas" people. It is a helpful book and easily read.

It would be helpful to the pastor planning to preach a biographical sermon on this New Testament character as well as the lay-person who wants to be a better steward.

Reviewed by Greg Potts, pastor of Providence Church, Meadville.

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

Ronald McDonald volunteers

Editor:

Perhaps you and some of your readers already know Jackson's Ronald McDonald House will be holding a grand opening on April 30 at 3 p.m. This is Sunday afternoon, and we are hoping for good weather and good attendance. The public is invited.

Jacksonian generosity has been truly amazing and we are able to open the house debt free! However, we do have an urgent need, for volunteer workers to act as hostesses and receptionists. Since the first guests are due to arrive on May 1, it is important that we acquire these volunteers as quickly as possible.

If any of your staff or readership feels led to volunteer to serve these parents and their critically ill children, please contact us at 981-2397.

Gladys Gill
House Manager

The whole Bible

Editor:

I am writing in response to Bill Jobe Sr.'s letter in the April 6, 1989, issue.

Mr. Jobe stated that he was liberal because he believed that there are phrases and words in the Bible that are not true. He then stated three incidents which, according to him, are not true because God knows all things.

I too believe in the omniscience of God. He knows the past, present, and future as if they are now. But he wants us to acknowledge our deeds. We find in 1 John 1:9 if we confess our sins He will forgive them. God knows that we have sinned, so why must we confess them?

God asked Adam and Cain where they were and what they were doing

because He wanted them to acknowledge what they had done. Adam confessed, "I was naked and hid myself." He did not escape the consequence of his sin, but he was forgiven. Cain, on the other hand, failed to acknowledge his sin, "I know not, am I my brother's keeper?" And was cursed by God. Here God shows he knew what had transpired.

In the New Testament Jesus said, "you have not because you ask not." Jesus knows our needs, just as he knew who touched him; but he wants us to present ourselves to him and ask for our needs.

I believe the whole Bible is true. In making this statement I may be admitting that I am intellectually inferior to Mr. Jobe because, if there are phrases in the Bible that are not true, I am not intelligent enough to determine which are or are not. Therefore, the part that I am depending on for my eternal destiny may not be true! Because of this, I must believe it all!!

Ronald M. Rhea
Mt. Pleasant

Hermanville centennial

Editor:

Our church is in the process of locating former pastors and members. We will be celebrating our centennial anniversary this year.

We need help in the sending of any information concerning former pastors and members. Please send all correspondences to the following: Hermanville Baptist Church, P. O. Box 220, Hermanville, Mississippi 39086.

We would greatly appreciate any help in this matter.

Sincerely yours,
Church History Committee
Donald I. Pouns, pastor
Hermanville Baptist Church

Offering reports

Editor:

I would appreciate it, and I feel sure others would also, if you would give us a report from time to time on the progress of the Annie Armstrong offering.

Also, could you please tell me the total received for the state missions offering last year? I don't recall seeing any report on this in the Baptist Record.

Thank you very much.
Miss Tom Womack
West Point

A fundamentalist

Editor:

I am a fundamentalist with a little "f." I am not a feuding, fussing, fighting fundamentalist; but I am offended greatly when I read of and hear my faith sneered at, laughed at, and ridiculed by some who call themselves Baptists, many of whom have their salary paid for with my money and the money given by good, faithful people that I led to Christ and taught to support the Cooperative Program by tithing their money through their local church.

I am not alone in my stance. There are many millions of Southern Baptists who believe like I do about the Bible... salvation by grace, blood atonement of Christ, eternal security, a literal hell, etc. Many of them are silent because they are too timid to speak out. Others have been "brain washed" into believing that they should not become involved in what has been depicted as a "grab for power."

A fair appraisal of Baptist history will show that we who believe firmly in the inerrancy of scripture have a long line of forebears who have gone before us, especially in Mississippi. Men like J. B. Gambrell, P. I. Lipsey, and T. T. Martin, to name a few. May I add the name of a man who meant so much to me: Dr. A. A. Kitchings.

Someday each of us will stand before an almighty God, who knows all about all of us; and I await his verdict in this matter. That is the only

thing that really matters!

Ray Megginson
Semmes, AL

And some have been led to believe that there are numbers of Southern Baptists who do not believe in salvation by grace, blood atonement of Christ, eternal security, a literal hell, etc. I don't know any; and I don't believe there are many, if any. — Editor

Gambling opportunities

Editor:

I would like to inform all Mississippi Baptists of the opportunity awaiting them on the cruise ship, "Pride of Mississippi." It has daily trips out of the Gulfport Harbor featuring casino gambling, stage show, and of course, all your favorite alcoholic beverages.

You may think it strange to put this notice in a Baptist paper, but I believe we should follow the lead of our pastors and denominational leaders. The Southern Baptist Convention is being held in Las Vegas, Nevada this year where the attractions are gambling, drinking and stage shows. Our leaders will be staying in the casino/stage show/drinking hotels. The economy and name Las Vegas are built around these vices. The desert does not have much to offer without these attractions.

Now I know that we Baptists do not partake of gambling or alcohol, but while we are enjoying the cruise, we could evangelize the crew and other passengers. Or maybe a church in the Gulfport area could arrange for us to help with Vacation Bible School as long as it does not conflict with the "cruise ship" schedule.

Surely we can think of other good and compelling reasons for going on the gambling/stage show/drinking ship/ as our messengers can justify their trip to Las Vegas.

Bob Hamm
Long Beach

Success does for living what sunshine does for stained glass.



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



Thursday, April 20, 1989

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

Storm over the Pacific

From the minute I saw my travel schedule, I worried. Three days and two nights with no sleeping time allotted, except in a plane. They said it would probably cost \$75 or \$100 to hire a taxi from the airport to downtown Tokyo. How could I stand, with no sleep, to wait 11 hours in the Tokyo Airport, fly to Los Angeles, wait five more hours, change planes in Dallas, and continue to Jackson?

We left steaming Kuala Lumpur at 11 p.m., after touring the city all day, and stepped out next into a freezing Tokyo morning. I need not have worried. Japan Air Lines announced they would send us to the Narita Nikko Hotel for a nap and lunch, at their expense. By the time we lined up for a shuttle bus and rode to the hotel, three of our waiting hours had gone.

A man named W. D. McVety had driven 50 miles to meet us at the hotel and tell us a little about Christian missions in Japan. In a mighty effort to listen and not appear rude by falling over asleep at his feet, I pinched myself, chewed a stick of gum, and did everything but prop my eyes open with a toothpick.

One thing he said I do remember: "Japan is still a difficult mission field, but it is ripe for harvest. If Christians would get together and pray it through, as they did in Korea, Japan could have the kind of spiritual awakening Korea is having."

Room 517 was tiny, about twice as wide as a single bed; it reminded me of a bedroom on a train. Free slippers and toothbrush awaited me. The white cover on the bed was folded back, beckoning. Sunshine through the single window gave a warm glow to a room with the Japanese traits of cleanliness, and beauty in simplicity.

I slept as fast as I could, for 3½ hours before lunch. Then I spent the 150 yen I'd been saving since 1970 when I was in Tokyo for the Baptist World Alliance. All it would buy in the gift shop was a greeting card. I plan to frame it.

I need not have worried about the flight to Los Angeles either. The 747 was so empty that, after a while, I found four unoccupied seats together and stretched out across all of them. Like a vague dream, I kept seeing the lights flicker and a voice somewhere saying, "Fasten your seat belts, please. Fasten your seat belts, please..." Over and over. Since I could not very well fasten four seat belts, I slept on. When I really did awaken, it was dawn of a second consecutive Sunday (because we had crossed the international date line).

My friend Joan told me I had slept through a terrific storm that had lasted most of the night. The Japanese children on the row in front of me had been sick all night, and I had not even known it. Attendants had rushed about reassuring passengers; one little boy had cried and cried, afraid the plane was about to crash. But I had known nothing of any of it.

While Joan and I waited at the airport in Los Angeles, we struck up a conversation with a rather large, but nevertheless attractive, woman who was waiting for a plane to take her home to Honolulu. When she learned we were Christians, she embraced us as if we were her long-lost sisters. Was she ever glad to see us!

She'd been on a singles cruise to Mexico, and fallen unwittingly into (what was for her) most unpleasant company. "Everybody on the boat,"

she told us, "smoked and drank champagne all the time. My roommate kept bringing her boy friends to our cabin. I moved to another cabin, on an upper deck, one with a window. Then we got into a three-day storm. Oh, it was awful! The crew said it was the worst storm they had ever seen. They all wore their life jackets all the time, as if we might sink any minute!"

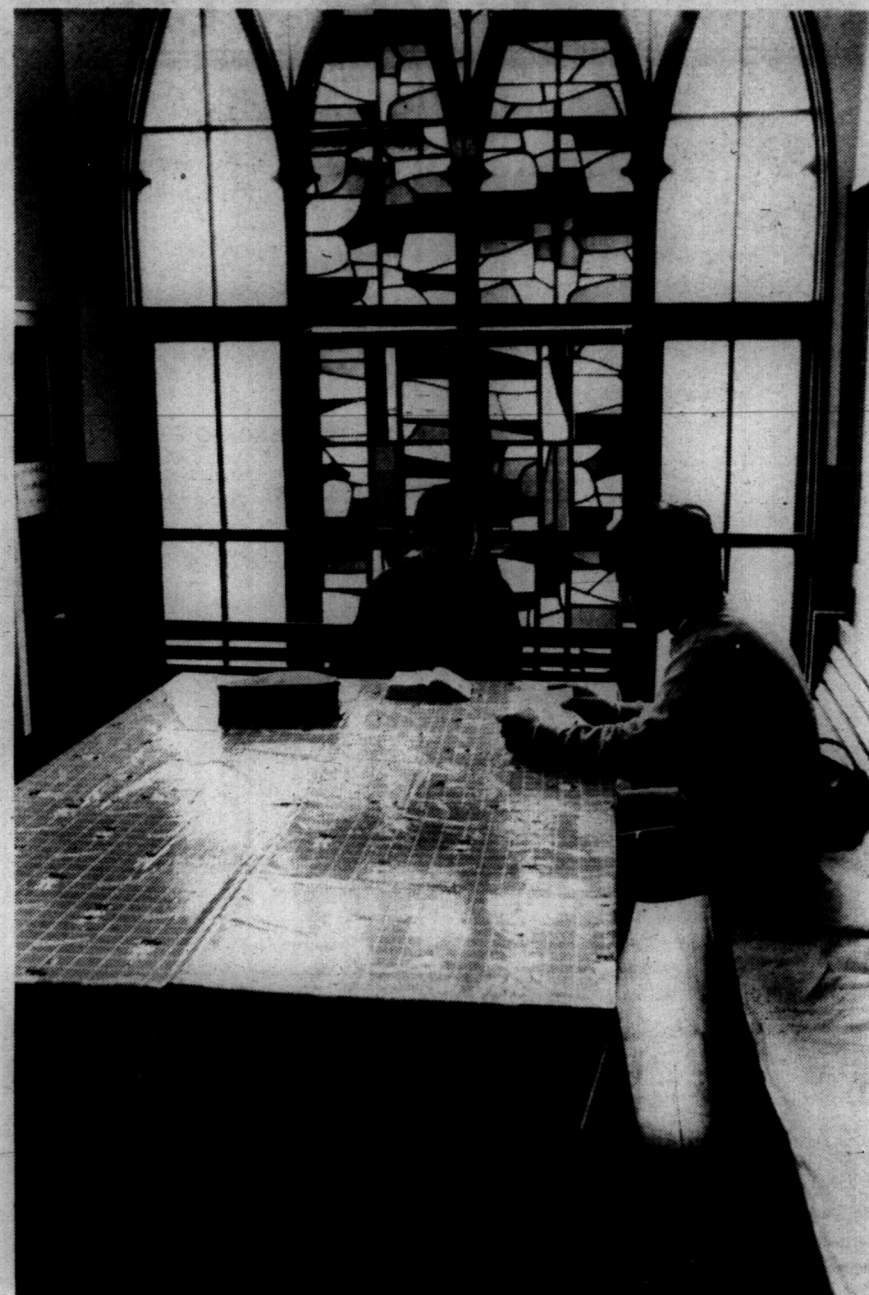
"If you think a storm in the air was bad, wait until you're in one on the sea! One day I fell down on the deck and sprained my hand. I slid down the deck like a sled until my head hit something and stopped me. Then I had to stay upstairs in my cabin for ages because I could not hold to the stair railing with my sprained hand and was scared to walk down the steps. I was freezing to death up there, but I had to stay."

"Finally it was over, and some of the crew told us that something about the ship's navigation system had broken, and that it was by God's grace that all our lives were spared."

In this life, the storms of sin and suffering forever keep forming, like the thunderclouds over the Pacific. But "the Lord hath his way in the whirlwind, and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust on his feet" (Nahum 1:3).

"For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof.... He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven" (Psalm 109:25, 29-30).

Only in Him is there peace in the midst of the storm. Only he can see us safely to the end of our journey to "a better country" (Hebrews 11:16).



Sunlight in Japan

Sunlight streaming through stained glass provides a dramatic backdrop for these Japanese Baptists during Bible study at Fukuoka Baptist Church. The first Southern Baptist missionaries in Japan began work in 1889. Now, some 200 missionaries work with more than 300 churches and preaching points in the Japan and Okinawa Baptist conventions. (FMB) PHOTO By Warren Johnson

Devotional

Ability versus availability

By John Sharp
Exodus 4:10

Serving God for me has always been a matter of faith. When God called me to be a preacher, I accepted with reluctance at first. I thought, "Why would God want such a shy, common person with limited speaking ability?" Moses seemingly had the same feeling when he said, "Oh my Lord, I am not eloquent, . . . but I am slow of speech and of a slow tongue." In chapter 3 and 4 of the book of Exodus he gave four different excuses as to why he could not do what God asked him to do. Finally in Exodus 4:13 he requested God to send someone else.

Unlike Moses, I never did request God to send someone else, but like Moses, when God called me, I questioned my ability. In fact, I was not the only one who questioned my ability. A man I admired very much heard me preach my first sermon. Later he heard me again and asked for a meeting. At this meeting he urged me to re-evaluate my call to preach and perhaps think about serving God in some way that would not involve a lot of speaking. In a nice way he told me I was a lousy preacher.

What made matters worse was that I knew he was right in his assessment of my ability. In those beginning days it was not hard to see the bored look on people's faces when I preached. It was not hard to understand what the little old ladies meant when they spoke to me after I preached and said, "Young man, I am sure that one of these days you are going to be a fine preacher."

I have questioned my ability many times in doing what God has called me to do, but I have never questioned that God did indeed call me to do those things. The story of Moses points out that if God calls us to do his work, he will prepare us and be with us until the task is accomplished. A great lesson that I am learning is that God is not looking for our ability to accomplish his work, but for an availability to be used by him. All of us may not have great ability, but any of us can be available to be empowered by God and to be used by him.

Sharp is pastor, Sebastopol Church, Sebastopol.



Sharp



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Friend needs help

QUESTION:

I have a friend who lives far away and she needs something, but I can't seem to find out what. She is truly a Christian, yet things that have happened to her have really gotten her down and now she just clams up. She says she has nothing to live for and wishes the Lord would take her away. I want to help her and try, but it doesn't seem to help. Of course, letters aren't the best way of communicating either. Have you got any suggestions as to anything I can say or do to help her? PRAY! — Anything else?

ANSWER:

It isn't always possible to help a friend in the way you want to. But here are some suggestions.

Do not probe. No one likes to have her troubles gouged out of her. You've got to be subtle, suggest, hint, but no more. Sometimes the best help a friend can be is just to be there. Assure her of your dependability and concern. When she needs you she can have you. Point out to her, if possible, in casual ways, the sources of help you have found.

Since she is a Christian, urge her not to neglect the possibilities for counsel in her church. Perhaps they have a pastor who is easy to talk to, or a youth director. School counsellors can sometimes give good counsel. There's often a relative to whom one feels close. It will probably work much better if you can help her look for help than to try to give it yourself.

Choctaws attend youth conference

Nearly 500 American Indian young people from 15 states gathered on Bacone College campus in Muskogee, Okla., for the National Indian Baptist Youth Conference. The young people received training in witnessing, discipleship, and mission involvement.

Other seminars included puppetry, clowning, dramas, recreation, Indian hymns, and the Indian Lord's prayer. In response to challenging messages seven youth responded for salvation, 40 for rededication, and ten for mission involvement.

More than 80 young people from the New Choctaw Association attended the conference. They were led by Linda Farve of Pearl River Community. Many of the young people made decisions for Christ. They were the largest group coming from outside of Oklahoma.

Missionaries seek 100,000 in Hong Kong

HONG KONG — Southern Baptist missionaries in Hong Kong decided recently on a goal of 100,000 Baptists by the year 2000. That would mean about an 8 percent increase each year from the current figure of 38,000 Baptists in Hong Kong. Missionaries estimate such growth would require about an eightfold increase in Baptist churches to more than 400.

Just for the Record



Pine Level Church, Leakesville, celebrated two events on March 12. The first was dedication for a new fellowship hall. Horace Glass, director of missions, Greene Association, speaker, is pictured (left to right) with Sam Elmore, building chairman; Shortie Sowell, deacon chairman; and Richard Dix, pastor.



Joy Vaughn, daughter of Sid and Jo Vaughn, was recently crowned queen in a candlelight Studiact recognition service at First Church, Louisville. Joy, an Acteen for 5½ years, will attend the National Acteen Conference this year for a second time. She will serve as Activator in the Rio Grande River Valley this summer. She is a senior at Winston Academy. Her Acteens leaders are Jean Jones and Pam Womack. She is pictured with her parents and with her brother, Scott, a student at New Orleans Seminary. Her crownbearer, left front, was Taylor Womack, and her flower girl, right front, was Conner Anderson.

Staff changes



Tommy Snyder is pastor of Tate Street Church, Corinth. He goes to Tate Street from the pastorate of Calvary Church, Greenville. He is a graduate of Mississippi College, Southwestern Seminary, and Luther Rice Seminary.

Dan Bradley is the new pastor of Kittiwake Church, Pass Christian. He and his wife, Sharon, are former FMB missionaries to Kenya, where he worked in church establishment and in beginning the Nyanza Bible School for pastor training.

Most of us worry more about whether folks will think we are evil than whether we are evil.



Women of First Church, Eudora, recently presented a quilt to D. F. and Elsie Wilson on their 50th wedding anniversary. The Wilsons have served the Lord through their local church, First, Eudora; through the Northwest Association, and on numerous mission trips to pioneer areas. He is a retired farmer, home builder, deacon, Sunday School teacher, and past church and associational Brotherhood director. He has spearheaded several mission building projects. She is a Sunday School teacher in the preschool area, a WMU leader, and a VBS department director. Said the Eudora pastor, Jim Muston, "This special couple has been an inspiration and blessing to our church and the entire community for many years."

D. F. and Elsie Wilson

Providence Church, Cleveland, received \$1,687.14 for Annie Armstrong which was the most ever given at any one time. The goal was \$1,200. Eggs were placed on an Easter egg tree for every \$20 given. Providence Church sends 3 percent of its offering to Annie Armstrong each month. Jean Mosley is WMU director, and Eugene Walden is pastor.

The Blue Mountain College Chorale will present its final concert of the year on April 20 at 8 p.m., at Lowrey Memorial Church, Blue Mountain. Admission is free. The first half of the concert will consist of a performance of the Requiem of Gabriel Faure. The work will be accompanied at the organ by Terry McRoberts, associate professor of music. Soloists will be Diana Powell of Memphis, Rickey Kelly of Tupelo. Keith Owens of Blue Mountain, and Amelia Taylor of Ripley. The Chorale is a select ensemble under direction of David R. Gilmore, assistant professor of music.

Meadow Grove Church, Rankin County, will show a video, "Focus on the Family," on Sunday night, April 23, at 6 p.m., during Church Training. This will be the first of a seven-week series.

The Leesburg Church celebrated its 108th anniversary on April 16. Two former staff members returned to participate. Phil Granger, a former minister of music, sang and directed the music. Former pastor Maurice Wicker delivered the morning sermon. Wicker was pastor of Leesburg when the present facilities were constructed. A memorial service was held during the morning program. Seven Leesburg members have died since last year's homecoming; their memory was honored. Mrs. Flossie Measells presented their names in a memorial moment. A covered dish lunch was spread at noon. Odus Jackson is the pastor.

Mississippi Baptist activities

- April 24-26 Preaching Conference; New Orleans Seminary; 2 p.m., 24th-3 p.m., 26th (CAPM)
- April 27 Adult Choir Festival; FBC; Hattiesburg; 7-9 p.m. (CM)
- April 27-28 Associational Officers Training; Camp Garaywa; 4 p.m., 27th-12:30 p.m., 28th (WMU)
- April 28-29 Associational Officers Training; Camp Garaywa; 4 p.m., 28th-12:30 p.m., 29th (WMU)
- *April 29 Lad/Dad Crusader Day; Central Hills Retreat; 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (BR)
- Youth Speakers Tournament; Calvary BC, Jackson; 10 a.m.-Noon (CT)
- Youth Selection Tournament; Calvary BC, Jackson; 1:30-3 p.m. (CT)

County Line to show "Joni"

County Line Baptist will show the movie, "Joni," April 23 at 7 p.m. "Joni," a World Wide Pictures production, is based on the real life story of Joni Eareckson and her struggle through a tragic accident.

County Line Church is located between Puckett and Mendenhall, off of Highway 13 on the Rankin/Simpson County line. A love offering will be taken.

Maybe a little chaos can be helpful. Consider Columbus: he didn't know where he was going. When he got there, he didn't know where he was. And when he got back, he didn't know where he'd been.

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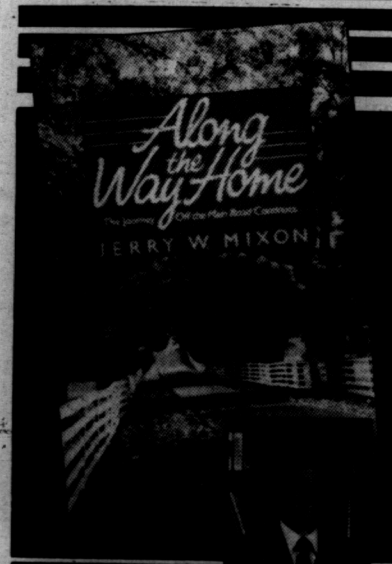
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Jerry W. Mixon is pastor of First Baptist Church, Winona, Mississippi.

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Secretaries elect officers

Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Association installed officers at Camp Garaywa, April 10, 1989. Serving as officers for the coming year are, pictured left to right, Tinie Slade, president, Bayou View Church, Gulfport; Vivian Taylor, secretary-treasurer, Wayne Baptist Association, Waynesboro; Sarah Majure, first vice president, Greenfield Church, Greenville; Jeanette Flowers, second vice president, First Church, Jackson.

Revival dates

Midway, Jackson: April 21, 22 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 23, at 10:15 a.m. and 7 p.m. John McCall, head of the Department of Religion at Mississippi College, evangelist; David Wilkinson, pastor.

First, Yazoo City: April 28-30; lay renewal weekend; Sidney J. Ellis, renewal evangelism associate, Greenville, coordinator; Gene Triggs, local coordinator; James F. Yates, pastor; for details phone the church at 746-2471.

Popp's Ferry (Gulf Coast): April 23-28; Guy Henderson, director, Evangelism Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Ed McGaw, music; services, Sunday, 11 a.m., 7 p.m., nightly; dinner on the ground Sunday, 5:30; Don Snipes, pastor.

Forest Hill, Jackson: April 23-26; 10:50 Sunday morning; 7 nightly; Rocky Henriques and Hugh Plunkett from Clarksdale, to lead.

First Church, Okolona: April 16-21; Jack Gregory, visiting evangelist; Price Harris leading the music; Roy McHenry, pastor.

McDowell Road, Jackson: April 23-26; 7 p.m.; Jim Futral, evangelist; Graham Smith, music evangelist; Lowell Johnson, pastor.

First Boyle, Boyle: April 28-30; 7 p.m.; evangelist, Larry Braswell; music director, Michael Knowles.

Rienzi, (Alcorn): April 23-26; 7 nightly; Kenny Digby, Fulton, evangelist; Trevor Williams, music; Charlie Cooper, pastor.

Adaton Church, Starkville: April 23-26; David Grisham, Wiggins, evangelist; Tony Thompson, minister of music at Adaton, leading the music; homecoming, April 23, morning worship at 10:30, dinner on the grounds at noon, and evening worship at 7; Mon.-Wed., April 24-26, revival services at 7:30 p.m.; Hal Selby, pastor.

Zion Hill, Liberty: youth revival; April 28-30; 7 nightly; Gary Phillips, speaker; Dwayne Sims, music; Woody Rimes, pastor.

Dublin, Prentiss: April 23-28; 7 nightly; Gus Merritt, pastor, Clarke Venable Memorial, Decatur, evangelist; Hubert Greer, music evangelist, Brookhaven, music; Robert L. Dunn, pastor.

Homewood, Homewood: April 28-30; services, 7 nightly; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Danny Lafferty, evangelist; Mark McDonald, pastor.

Park Place, Brandon/Pearl: April 23-27; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Jaime Mayorga, from the streets of El Salvador, evangelist; Dan McCraw, music evangelist; Bobby Williamson, pastor.

Trinity, Vicksburg: April 23-28; begins Sunday night; Mon.-Fri., noon with lunch provided and 7 each evening; Dick Baker, pastor, First, Duluth, Ga., evangelist; Jim Hess, minister of music, First, Vicksburg, and his wife, Sheila, music; Randy Rich, pastor.

Cedar Bluff (Clay): April 23-28; 7 nightly; John Brock, Ackerman Church, Ackerman, evangelist; Archie Chesser, music; Clarence Mayo, Jr., pastor.

First, Ridgeland: April 16-19; Sunday, 7 p.m.; weekday services, noon and 7 p.m.; James Leonard, pastor, Northwood, West Palm Beach, Fla., evangelist; Tim Lawrence, First, Ridgeland, music.

Off the Record

"How did you and Bob ever come to marry?"
"It's the same old story. We started out to be good friends, and later we changed our minds."

A cranky old man invested in one of the new hearing aids that are almost invisible. A few days later he returned to the appliance store to express his delight.

"I'll bet your family likes it too," said the salesman.

"Oh, they don't know I've got it," said the old fellow. "And am I having a ball! In the past week I've changed my will 3 times."

WMU will sponsor trip to Ridgecrest

Members of Woman's Missionary Union are invited to be part of a state-wide bus group going to Ridgecrest for the summer WMU Conference, according to Marjean Patterson, executive director, Mississippi WMU. The bus will leave from the Jackson area on Thursday, June 29, go by way of Nashville, Gatlinburg, and Cherokee before arriving at Ridgecrest. The trip will include a tour of Baptist Sunday School Board

headquarters, a ticket to see the drama, "Unto These Hills," scenic ride on the Great Smoky Mountains Train, and lunch at the Jarrett House, an old hotel in a mountain village.

On Friday, July 7, the group will leave Ridgecrest and drive directly home to Mississippi.

Cost of the trip is \$420, which in-

cludes bus transportation, week's room and board at Ridgecrest, two nights in motels enroute to Ridgecrest, plus several other features.

For additional information, and for registration forms, contact Miss Patterson at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Homecomings

Goss Church, Columbia: April 30; homecoming; Sunday School at 10 a.m.; morning worship at 11; covered dish dinner after the morning service; afternoon service; no evening service; David Rogers, minister of education at Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, guest speaker; William Wright, pastor; Mark McArthur, music director; (Rogers, graduate of William Carey and New Orleans Seminary, was licensed by Goss Church, and ordained by First, Columbia.)

Harmony (Carroll): April 30; Ken Gower, new pastor, will speak at 11 a.m. service; dinner on the grounds; Harmony Cemetery Association will celebrate 113th year at 1:30 p.m. meeting.

Crowder, Crowder: April 23; 15th year; 11 a.m.; Charles Stubblefield, former pastor, now serving as director of missions in Tishomingo County, message; John McDaniel, former minister of music, now serving at First, Fisherville, Eads, Tenn., and his wife, music; lunch served immediately following service.

Puckett Cemetery Assn.: homecoming; Sunday, April 23, at 10:50 a.m.; at Puckett Church; Ted Giordano, guest speaker; lunch "on the grounds" following the service; Alvin Doyle, pastor.

If we don't appreciate what we have we could be miserable in paradise.

Conceit may puff a man up, but never props him up.

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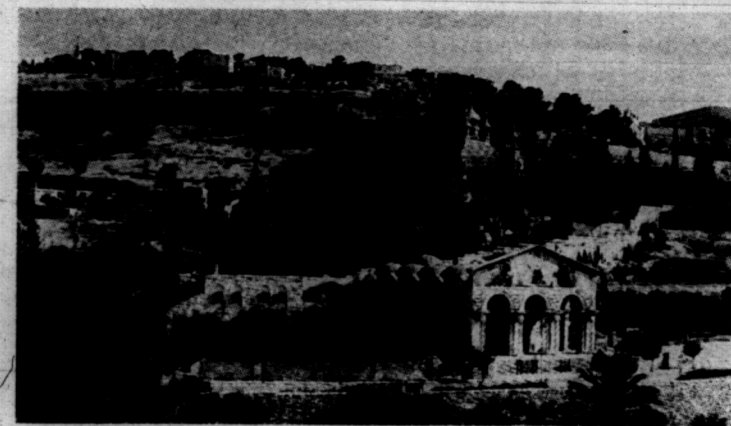
Is your church making progress or simply putting out fires? What are the four worst/best questions churches ask when they plan?

Get the answers to these and many more questions as Dr. Kennon L. Callahan leads a two-day seminar on "Twelve Keys To An Effective Church" on May 10-11, 1989, from 8:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Hinds-Madison Baptist Associational office at 6530 Dogwood View Drive in Jackson, Mississippi.

Dr. Callahan has received wide recognition for his work as one of the leading long range planning consultants working with churches. He combines his training as a pastor and theologian with extensive experience as a consultant, researcher, and lecturer. He has served as consultant with more than one thousand churches of all sizes during the past 30 years.

The cost of the seminar is \$25.00 per church. A limited number of scholarships are available through the Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Mail reservations by sending a \$10.00 deposit to Hinds-Madison Baptist Association, P. O. Box 4686, Jackson, MS 39296-4686, on or before May 1, 1989, or call 362-8676 for additional information.



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We must be reconciled

(Continued from page 3)

apostles had continued in their own self-determined way, the church would not have united; however, they clothed themselves with humility for the benefit of the church.

Let me call attention to the requirements of God that go back to the beginning. Jesus summarized the Ten Commandments in two verses. "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: This is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these." Where is that love?

I have heard many sermons from different events in the life of Jacob. The greatest lesson I get is the combination of events that took place over a period of years. This reflects the principle of the Ten Commandments and took place more than four hun-

dred years before Moses received the Ten Commandments.

Jacob, under the advice and instruction of his mother, deceived and swindled Esau, his brother, out of his blessing. This in turn made Esau very angry. He threatened to kill Jacob. Jacob left home brokenhearted to go to his mother's homeland.

God will not despise a broken and contrite heart; and at the end of the first day of travel, Jacob lay down to sleep. During the night, God appeared to Jacob as he saw a ladder reaching to heaven. The next day Jacob poured oil on the stones where he rested his head and made a vow to God.

This is the place where God at a later date called Jacob back to build an altar. At this time there was something lacking in Jacob's life for him to have anything to do with the altar.

Jacob went on his way, and he labored for 20 years to get his family and worldly goods. God then put a desire in his heart to return home.

Just before Jacob and his family reached home, he met his brother, Esau; and they were reconciled. After the reconciliation, Jacob was then in the right condition to do service in building the altar.

Jesus said, "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." Our Baptist church covenant calls for reconciliation and to secure it without delay.

We can understand from the very beginning that we should be our brother's keeper. We should be clothed with humility before we can serve at the altar.

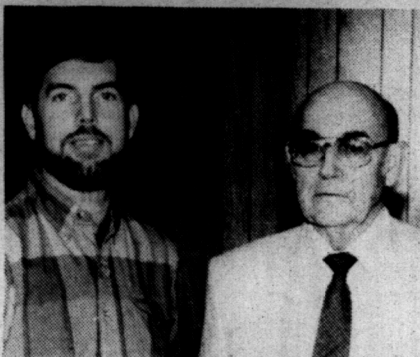
Micah 6:8 reads, he hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

R. E. Shaw lives in Perkinston.

Names in the news

Grand Ole Opry comic, Jerry Clower, on May 14 and May 26 will give commencement addresses at two schools. On May 14, Clower will precede diplomas and distinctions by speaking to the graduates of Southwest Mississippi Community College in Summit. He is an alumnus of the school, which he attended prior to Mississippi State University. On May 26, Clower will address the 350-member student body of Marine Military Academy in Harlingen, Tex. Last year, he spoke to the graduating class of Mississippi College.

Danny H. Owen, a behavioral health chaplain at North Mississippi Medical Center, Tupelo, has been certified as a fellow of the college of chaplains, the major certifying body for chaplains. Owen is a member of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo.



Mark Dunn, left, has received the first annual William D. Clawson Ministerial Education Scholarship. The scholarship, honoring Clawson (right), is given by the Board of Ministerial Education of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Dunn is a senior religion major at Carey where Clawson is professor emeritus of religion. Dunn is also minister of youth at Fellowship Church.

Lewis Smith, director of church-minister relations for Mississippi Baptist, spoke recently at chapel at New Orleans Seminary.

Frances Smith, assistant professor, and Alfred Foy, associate professor, both from the William Carey College Department of Education, attended an April 6 meeting of AMTE (Association of Mississippi Teacher Educators) in Jackson. Smith is secretary/treasurer of the state-wide organization of educators who work with student teachers.

A study of the US National Council of Churches reported that from 1978 to 1988 the number of women ordained to full ministry in the U.S.A. doubled from 10,470 to 20,730. Women now make up 7.9 percent of the total clergy.

Churches Adopt Expanded Annuity Plan

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those reported in the Feb. 23 issue of the Baptist Record: Covington/Jeff Davis: Carson; Gulfcoast: East Howard; Jackson: Calvary; Jones: Summerland; Lee: Chesterville; Neshoba: Hope and North Calvary; Oktibbeha: First Baptist Church — Maben and Morgan Chapel; Pike: Johnston Station; Pontotoc: Ecu; Simpson: Dry Creek; Tishomingo: New Salem; Wayne: Water Oak; Yazoo: Melrose.

Senior Adult Corner

Copiah Baptists to sponsor senior adult rally

A senior adult rally will be sponsored by Copiah Association on April 27 at 10 a.m. The meeting will be held at Highland Baptist Church in Crystal Springs and will feature Chester Swor, prominent Mississippi Baptist speaker and author. Also on the program will be the Golden Choir of First Church in Crystal Springs.

A covered dish luncheon will be



served in the church fellowship hall following the rally. Area senior adults are invited to this special time of inspiration. Further information may be obtained by calling 892-1149 or 894-2024.

SBC registration cards available

Registration cards for the Southern Baptist Convention are available from Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, phone 968-3800. They are not mailed out the executive director's office of the automatically; they must be Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, requested.

Church Training Leadership



How many people have you heard testify to the fact that they got their start in Christian service through Church Training? It use to be that almost every church worker and church staff member made this claim. That no longer seems to be true.

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For full information, contact WMU's authorized travel agent for Tour Lottie Moon's China®, or write WMU, SBC:

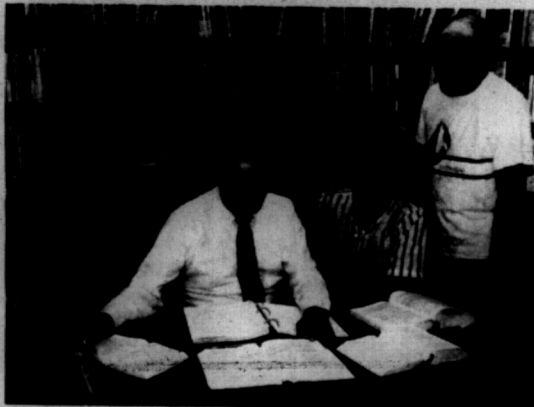
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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

Paul's ministry in Macedonia

By Bert Breland
Acts 15:36-17:15

Our passage this week is the beginning of what is commonly known as Paul's second missionary journey. Its beginning is seemingly



Breland

marred by the separation of the great missionary team of Paul and Barnabas. This was probably a blessing in disguise because it got two teams in action rather than just one. For the most part people believe that the separation was caused by a difference of opinion over John Mark and whether or not he should be taken along. This interpretation is obvious from the text but there may have been another problem. Frank Stagg, in his commentary on Acts, has suggested that there may have been a division developing between Paul and Barnabas over the race issue between Jews and Gentiles. Stagg points to Paul's letter to the Galatians, chapter 2, in which Paul was discussing some of the things that we are studying in

BIBLE BOOK

Acts 15, the relevant issue being that Barnabas had been carried away with some of the other Jewish-Christians and had refused to eat with Gentile-Christians. If indeed the event in Galatians 2 occurred prior to the beginning of the second missionary journey it would have been difficult for Paul and Barnabas to have worked together at that time.

Paul began this journey by returning to the churches that he had visited on the first journey, his purpose being to strengthen them. Paul set a good example for all of us in our continuing responsibility in disciplining those that we have led to faith in Jesus Christ. One of the most significant things that happened on this journey was Timothy joining the ranks of Paul's associates. One of the most difficult things to understand was Paul's requiring Timothy to be circumcised.

After the strong stand that he had taken at Antioch and Jerusalem, repudiating this idea that Gentiles must become Jews before they

could become Christians, it is difficult to reconcile his action concerning Timothy. It is difficult to imagine that Paul made this concession to the Judaizers of Jerusalem. Most certainly this must have happened some time prior to the writing of Galatians. Also, Paul must have been acting in the interest of harmony and expediency.

One of the interesting things about this journey was the fact that on two occasions Paul was forbidden by God to enter certain regions to preach the gospel. On one occasion Luke records that he was forbidden by the "Holy Spirit" and on another it was the "Spirit of Jesus." The obvious reason for these doors closing was because God was about to open another door of greater opportunity. Paul would receive the call to Macedonia in a dream. This is the area of the world that we know today as Greece. This would become a ripe field for Paul's evangelistic ministry. Much of Paul's work and later writing would be directed to the area of Macedonia.

One of the most exciting stories in the book of Acts is concerning Paul's experience in the Roman colony of Philippi. Paul had been

plagued by a young girl following him around and crying out while he and Silas were trying to preach, and he finally grew tired of it, and he cast the evil spirit out of the girl. This action brought on the anger of the men that had used the girl as a fortune teller. They got the city officials to take action against these Jewish intruders. Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into prison.

If ever a Christian would be inclined to feel sorry for himself this certainly would have been the time to do it. Instead, Paul and Silas seized the opportunity to proclaim good news to those in the jail. They sat up all night singing and praising God. I believe that the reason they were up all night praising God was because they had a revival in the jail and all the other prisoners were converted. This would account for the other prisoners not leaving the jail when the earthquake opened all the doors. Further, a revival service that the jailer had been forced to listen to would account for his informed and relevant question, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Breland is pastor, North Greenwood Church, Greenwood.

Dealing with spiritual failure

By Greg Martin
Joshua 7:1-13

Charles Dobson of Ontario, Canada, was having a problem with his garbage service. To alleviate himself of the problem he wrapped his



Martin

bacon rinds, egg shells, and other waste products in a box with white paper and red ribbon. He often would place this peculiar package by the freeway near his house. People would drive up to the present, stop, look all around to make sure no one was spying, and then much to their later surprise drive off with the gift of garbage.

Sin is like a gift of garbage. At first it looks so inviting. It is always packaged in an attractive way. Only later is its stench realized.

Sin is a reality that believers must deal with. To fail to confront sin is to welcome moral and spiritual failure. Joshua 7-8 teaches us that we can deal constructively with moral and spiritual failure by acknowledging and confessing sin and by rededicating ourselves to God's purpose.

LIFE AND WORK

The Israelites had gone up to conquer Ai. Instead of victory, they experienced defeat. Joshua and the people could not understand why, since in chapter 6 God wrought the victory over the fortified city of Jericho. The reason for defeat at the smaller city of Ai was disobedience (verse 11).

This failure brought great fear to God's people. Their hearts "melted and became as water" (verse 5). Disobedience leads to fear. I John 4:18 reminds us that "perfect love casteth out fear." Love was defined by Jesus in John 14:21, 23 as obedience. If you desire not to be fearful, then obedient love needs to occupy your life.

As the beaten Israelite troops came marching into the camp Joshua prayed a prayer that we all have prayed during times of failure (verse 7). He asked God why he allowed disaster to fall on Israel. Joshua suggested the people would have been better off not to have crossed the Jordan. His words sound similar to the murmuring of the people in the wilderness wanderings.

Often when there is failure and defeat, we are inclined to blame God. Our God is a victorious

One. When failure comes, it should be followed by a period of seeking God and self-reflection. We never need to question the Lord. In failure we need to examine our own motives, attitudes, and actions.

The Lord told Joshua the failure at Ai was because of sin (verses 10-11). Joshua was instructed to quit praying and deal with the transgression. Verse 11 informs us the sin was a violation of the covenant concerning the spoils of Jericho. Joshua 6:18-19 reminds us that all the silver, gold, bronze, and iron vessels were to be taken for the Lord, not personal possession. At the Jericho raid, Achan kept some of the spoils for himself. Joshua 7:21 is an accurate testimony of how sin works. First Achan saw, then coveted, then took, and finally concealed the vessels.

Achan's progressive dealing with the contraband led to trouble for all Israel. At the Ai raid, 36 men lost their lives, the Israelite soldiers had to flee for their lives, and the testimony of God was damaged (verse 9). All of this was because of one man's disobedience.

Some in our day are so presumptuous as to say their sin has no effect on others. Such is not the case. Ask a child whose mother drinks away the grocery money. Ask a teenager whose

father gambles away his paycheck. Sin has a great effect on the innocent, as well as the guilty. Paul warned about the leavening of sin in I Corinthians 5:7-8.

In verse 12, the Lord warned Joshua that he would not be with the people in a victorious way until the sin was exposed and dealt with. To be absent of God's presence would surely bring greater defeat for the people of God.

Joshua was told to rectify the situation. The people needed to be consecrated and the contraband relinquished (verse 13). When Achan was discovered to be the guilty soldier, Joshua demanded that he give glory and praise to God by confessing his sin (verse 19). Achan did confess his sin and then reaped its wages (Romans 6:23). Afterward the people were able to go on and experience victory at Ai and throughout the rest of Canaan.

God's people today are on the threshold of victory when sin is confessed and forsaken (Proverbs 28:13). We may not conceal sin under our house but we often do in our hearts. Such action only leads to despair, fear, and defeat. Victory is ours when we practice obedience and experience recommitment to the purposes of God.

Martin is pastor, Commission Road, Long Beach.

Paul admonishes, "Rejoice in Christ"

By Gary G. Berry
Philippians 4:4-19

This passage of scripture is applicable to the "daily grind" of the Christian life. No matter what circumstances Christians face, they can



Berry

rejoice in the confidence that Christ will provide for every need.

Paul wrote these words to the Philippians toward the end of his life. Thus, these are not idle words or untested attitudes being spoken by an over-zealous novice. Moreover, he was not writing from a luxury suite in a posh Roman hotel. He was lying in prison with almost certain death awaiting him.

The admonition in verses 4-5 is powerful enough to change any sour outlook on life. Paul was saying that he had evaluated all the difficulties of the past, weighed all the possibilities of the future, and the one thing that became

UNIFORM

clear was his reason to rejoice in the Lord. Joy, being an unmistakable evidence of the Spirit, should be cultivated in every situation. Circumstances should not determine the condition of the heart and mind.

Another key to genuine joy is introduced in verse 6. The believer should stop being anxious, or worrying about matters of secondary importance. This sounds like the instructions Jesus gave his disciples (Matthew 6:25-34).

One cure for worry is prayer. The Christian should take everything to God in prayer. Every decision, every disappointment, every danger faced should be saturated in prayer.

Another cure for worry or despair is to think properly (verse 8). Jesus said, "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." Try looking at difficulties from God's perspective and the

"truth" will become evident. The mind of the Christian should dwell only upon: what is true as opposed to what is deceptive; what is honorable instead of what is dishonest; what is right instead of what is easy or popular; what is pure instead of what is sordid and shabby; what is winsome (lovely) instead of what is vengeful and bitter; what is admirable, instead of what is ugly and false. Paul concluded directions for a proper Christian mindset by encouraging the pursuit of excellence. One contemporary believer said, "If you pile up enough trash in your mind or in your life, you won't have to tell the world you're a trash can because your odor will announce it for you."

Whenever the Christian is able to stop worrying and start praying, and is willing to fix his mind on proper things, two things will happen. First, the peace of God will stand as a guard protecting both his heart and mind in Christ (verse 7). Second, the God of peace himself will be present. What could be better than the protection of the peace of God and the presence of the God of peace?

Paul was a proper model of Christian living (verse 9). Could you name three people whom you know well who are good models of Christlikeness? More importantly, would three people name you as a pure example of Christlikeness?

The Philippians had responded to Paul's needs with generous aid (vv. 10-13). Their care for him, which may have subsided temporarily, had started to bloom again. According to Paul, he had learned a priceless principle of Christian living. He had discovered the secret of being content. Many people own RV's (recreational vehicles). Most of them are "self-contained." They have on board everything necessary for the vacation or excursion: water, food, ice, heat Paul declared that in Christ he was "sufficient" for every situation. He was content, not as a result of human achievement but as a result of God's gift. He was not self-sufficient; he was God-sufficient. Whether he had everything or nothing, he had enough because he had Jesus.

Berry is pastor, First, McComb.

COCCONOT JOURNAL

Students take gospel to beach

By Mark Wingfield

CLEARWATER BEACH, Fla. (BP) — The gospel flowed as freely as the suntan oil on three of Florida's beaches during spring break this year.

Through "Beach Reach '89," 320 Christian students from 18 colleges introduced the Christian gospel into a setting previously notorious only for sunburns, beer, and sex. About 1 million college and high school students spent their spring breaks on Florida beaches.

The second annual Beach Reach, sponsored by the Florida Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, included ministries at Clearwater Beach, Fort Lauderdale, and Daytona Beach.

During the peak week of March 20-24, 127 students ministered on the Gulf coast at Clearwater Beach, while another 64 worked on the Atlantic coast at Daytona Beach. The group at Clearwater that week, representing five schools, was the largest single team during the month-long effort.

At Clearwater, Beach Reach participants led 93 people to profess faith in Jesus Christ and made about 1,200 one-on-one witnessing contacts, said Sarah Driggers, a US-2 missionary who directed the Clearwater ministry.

Overall, at least 138 professions of faith were recorded at the three beaches during Beach Reach, said Tammy Davis, director of special mission ministries for the Florida convention.

Davis, who has ministered around Florida beaches since 1980, said she has seen the number of unchurched students growing each year. "They're getting harder and harder to reach," she said.

"We've got a whole generation of youth in America who are growing up without the church, without knowledge of Jesus Christ. The church has got to take a stand in the marketplace and provide an opportunity for them to hear the gospel, some for the very first time."

Beach Reach participants used a simple survey as a means of starting conversations with people on the beach. The survey asked questions such as "What in your opinion is the basic problem of humanity?" and "If you could know and experience God personally would you be interested?" The questions led into a gospel presentation.

On the first day, Jennifer Massey, a student at Ouachita University, strolled along Pier 60 toward the ocean and encountered a college-age girl walking alone. "Would you like to take our survey?" Massey asked.

While seagulls flew overhead and a cool breeze blew off the water, Massey completed the 15 questions of the survey with ease. Then, based on the responses to key questions, she turned the conversation to share about how she had found meaning for her own life.

Massey unfolded a small white tract printed especially for the spring break crowd and explained three simple diagrams of man's separation from God.

By the time Massey completed the tract, her companion said she would like to trust the Jesus she had just heard about.

Mark Wingfield writes for the HMB.



BEACH REACH — Mark Christie (left), a student at Ouachita Baptist University, witnesses to a college student at Clearwater Beach, Fla., during spring break. Christie was one of 127 Christian students from five schools participating in "Beach Reach '89" at Clearwater Beach. At least 138 professions of faith were recorded during a month of ministries at three Florida beaches in March. Beach Reach was sponsored by the Florida Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (BP photo by Mark Wingfield)

CLC honors Lackey, Lewis

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — A pastor and an agency executive were honored with Distinguished Service Awards presented during the 1989 annual seminar of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, March 27-29 in Kansas City, Mo. The commission honored former

Chairman Fred Lackey, pastor of First Baptist Church of Athens, Ala., and Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta and a former pastor and president of Hannibal LaGrange Baptist College in Hannibal, Mo.

Beeson School adds Graham evangelism chair

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — A Billy Graham chair of evangelism and church growth has been established at the Beeson Divinity School of Samford University here.

Earlier this year, evangelist Graham gave permission for the chair to be named in his honor, said Divinity School Dean Timothy George.

The school's benefactor, Ralph Waldo Beeson, has requested that missions and evangelism be given a high priority in the development of the school's curriculum.

A national search for the first person to hold the chair will begin this spring, he said.

God, as the book of Genesis has it, was careful to make the mountains, the oceans, the plants, and the animals first, and to leave man and woman for last. He spared Himself a lot of gratuitous advice. — Richard Edger in Quote.

Men attack praying women at Wailing Wall

JERUSALEM, Israel (EP) — Jewish women holding a prayer service at the Wailing Wall were attacked by Orthodox men who objected to the women reading the Torah and wearing prayer shawls, things women are forbidden to do, according to Orthodox men.

"Hasidic [Orthodox] men don't own the wall," said Susan Kahn, who runs a women's Torah school in Jerusalem.

While the women worshipped at an area of the wall designated for women, dozens of Hasidic Jewish men struggled with police outside. Some of the men ran to a men's section of the wall adjacent to the women's section but separated by a short wall, and began throwing metal chairs at the women, but they were out of range.

Finally one man picked up a heavy metal chair and ran across the plaza to where the women stood praying, throwing it at their heads. Several women were struck down and one woman suffered a gash to her neck. Police threw tear gas at the Orthodox men as a final measure to stop the violence. The women were also forced out by the gas.

SCRAPBOOK

A touch of spring from my window

A few weeks ago we had our coldest night of the winter.

The azaleas and other shrubs were in full bloom. Of course, all the bloom was killed. The cannas had come up about 12 inches, and mums and other flowers, too. They were killed back to the ground.

There's peach tree by the front window. A few days after the freeze, there was one big bloom. Just one. I supposed the freeze had gotten all the others. Last year it was very beautiful, covered from top to bottom in bloom. People would stop to admire it. Besides that, it later had a lot of delicious peaches. My favorite fruit.

I wondered if the buds on the dogwoods had been killed, too. Now, here's "the rest of the story"...

In about two weeks after the freeze, the azaleas and other shrubs are again in full bloom!

The flowers that had come up — thinking it was spring — and been killed, are bravely pushing up their new growth, in lovely shades of green, above the leaf-mulch, more and more with the warm sunshine and gentle rain.

The peach tree by the front window that had only one bloom a few days after the freeze — well, it has an excellent covering from top to bottom, though not quite as thick as last year (that is, not yet, but there just might be some more coming). Even so, I

surely can't complain, because I thought it had only one. And I'm looking forward to some delicious peaches, come July.

I highly recommend a peach tree as a shrub, even if it didn't have any peaches. I consider the fruit a special bonus from the Lord, in addition to the beauty of the blossoms.

Over two dogwoods in front, one on either side of the walk, God has gently placed a beautiful white blanket.

It's interesting to see green sprouts come up again where dead ones had been. And to watch for new buds forming on shrubs, and then opening.

All over the yard are signs hanging on every plant, flower, shrub, and tree — that might as well be in neon lights for all to see — "God At Work!"

Against the house, clusters of delicate pink azaleas peep in at the window sill. The tall sprawling peach tree is clothed in Sunday's best of large pink designs. Then the graceful dogwoods display their splendor in white. And a little beyond, across the street, the neighbors' tall azaleas in brilliant colors exhibit their beauty against a background of pine.

A picture only God could have painted! I can't even begin to describe its beauty. You'll just have to look out your window and see a similar painting by the Master Artist!

—Ruby Singley
Columbia



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